Robertson I accompanied them to Paris for the Conference held on 4th May, to discuss the whole situation with the French Government and then new Commander-in-Chief.

Paris

Before the ministers and generals met, there was a military Conference held at the Ministry of War. At that Conference an agreement was reached, and a statement of the results was read at the mixed Conference of Ministers and Generals in the afternoon.

Here follows the copy of the statement by Sir William Robertson :—

" 4th May, 1917.

I conferred this morning with Generals Petain and Nivelle and Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig. Sir William Robertson reviewed the whole situation including the situation in Russia and Italy, and the entry of America into the War. We arrived at the unanimous opinion that it is essential to continue offensive operations on the Western Front. A large portion of the enemy's reserves have already been exhausted by the French and British attacks. If the enemy is given time to recover, the fruits of this success will be lost. He will be free to attack either Russia or Italy, neither of whom are at present in a condition to resist an attack in great

Robertson's statement of conclusions

Offensive to

continue force. His present object is certainly to encourage his people to hold out until the submarine warfare has taken effect, and if he is left free to gain easy successes where he can, and allowed to proclaim to the world that he has defeated his two principal enemies, he will obtain this object.